THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of transmitting a stream of data, comprising:

(a) dividing the stream of data into a first substream and a second substream;

(b) transmitting the first substream in a first data channel;

(c) transmitting the second substream in a second data channel; and

(d) prior to step (b), inserting a first marker signal in the first substream.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the first substream and detecting the first marker signal therein to identify the first substream.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising reassembling the stream of data from the first and second substreams on the basis of the detected first marker signal.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

prior to step (c), inserting a second marker signal in the second substream.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising receiving the second substream and detecting the second marker signal therein to identify the second substream.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prior to step (c), inserting a second marker signal in the second substream.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first and second marker signals are respective comma-sync characters.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first marker signal is selected from the group consisting of comma-sync even characters and comma-sync odd characters.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first substream includes first half-words of each word of the stream of data and the second substream includes second half-words of each word of the stream of data.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data channel includes a first optical fiber and the second data channel includes a second optical fiber.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the stream of data is encoded in accordance with an 8b/10b code.

12. A method of transmitting a stream of data, comprising:

dividing the stream of data into a plurality of substreams;

transmitting the substreams in respective data channels; and

prior to the transmitting step, inserting a respective marker signal in at least n minus one of the substreams, wherein n equals the number of substreams.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the inserting step includes inserting a respective marker signal in each of the substreams.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising receiving the transmitted substreams and detecting a marker signal in at least n minus one of the received substreams to identify at least n minus one of the received substreams.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising reassembling the stream of data from the received substreams on the basis of the detected marker signals.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein each of the data channels includes a respective optical fiber.

17. A data communication apparatus, comprising:
a transmitter;
a receiver;
a first data channel connecting the receiver to the transmitter; and
a second data channel connecting the receiver to the transmitter;
wherein the transmitter operates to:
divide a stream of data into a first

substream and a second substream;

insert a first marker signal in the first substream;

transmit the first substream to the receiver via the first data channel, the transmitted first substream including the inserted first marker signal; and

transmit the second substream to the receiver via the second data channel.

18. The data communication apparatus of claim 17, wherein the transmitter further operates to insert a second marker signal in the second substream.

19. The data communication apparatus of claim 18, wherein the receiver operates to detect the first and second marker signals in the first and second substreams to identify the first and second substreams.

20. The data communication apparatus of claim 17, wherein the receiver operates to detect the first marker signal in the first substream to identify the first substream.

21. The data communication apparatus of claim 20, wherein the receiver operates to reassemble the stream of data from the first and second data streams on the basis of the detected first marker signal.

22. The data communication apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first data channel includes a first optical fiber and the second data channel includes a second optical fiber.

23. A data communication apparatus, comprising:
a transmitter;
a receiver; and
a plurality of data channels connecting the receiver to the transmitter;
wherein the transmitter operates to:
divide a stream of data into a plurality of substreams;
insert a respective marker signal in at least n minus one of the substreams, wherein n equals the number of substreams; and
transmit each of the substreams in a respective one of the data channels.

24. The data communication apparatus of claim 23, wherein the receiver operates to receive the transmitted substreams and to detect a marker signal in at least n minus one of the received substreams.

25. The data communication apparatus of claim 24, wherein the receiver further operates to reassemble the stream of data from the received substreams on the basis of the detected marker signals.

26. The data communication apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transmitter inserts a respective marker signal in each of the substreams.

27. The data communication apparatus of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of data channels includes a respective optical fiber.

28. A method of transmitting a stream of data, comprising:

dividing the stream of data into a plurality of substreams, a first of the substreams including first half-words of each word of the stream of data and a second of the substreams including second half-words of each word of the stream of data;

transmitting the substreams in respective fiber optic data channels;

prior to the transmitting step, inserting a respective marker signal in at least n minus one of the substreams, wherein n equals the number of substreams;

receiving the transmitted substreams and detecting a marker signal in at least n minus one of the received substreams to identify at least n minus one of the received substreams; and

reassembling the stream of data from the received substreams on the basis of the detected marker signals.

29. A data communication apparatus, comprising:

a transmitter;

a receiver; and

a plurality of fiber optic data channels connecting the receiver to the transmitter;

wherein the transmitter operates to:

divide a stream of data into a plurality of substreams, a first of the substreams including first half-words of each word of the stream of data and a second of the substreams including second half-words of each word of the stream of data;

insert a respective marker signal in at least n minus one of the substreams, wherein n equals the number of substreams; and

transmit each of the substreams in a respective one of the data channels; and

wherein the receiver operates to:

receive the transmitted substreams and to detect a marker signal in at least n minus one of the received substreams; and

reassemble the stream of data from the received substreams on the basis of the detected marker signals.